

### REMARKS

The Examiner reviewed claims 1, 6-10, 13-17 and 19 of the pending application. The Examiner rejected each of these claims as anticipated by either *Lefkowitz, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,181,514) or *Giacovas* (U.S. Patent No. 4,004,899). Applicant disagrees that these two references teach each of the limitations of the foregoing claims and believes these claims to be in condition for allowance.

#### Specification

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner objected to the Abstract because of the word "comprises." Applicant has amended the Abstract. The Abstract is no longer objectionable.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner contends that each of the limitations of claims 1, 6-10, 13-17 and 19 are anticipated by *Lefkowitz, et al.* or *Giacovas*. Applicant disagrees with this reading. Specifically, claim 1 requires "a plurality of posts in an at least a partially annular form." While the Examiner states that these two references teach this limitation, there is nothing within either of these references to indicate such a unique feature. Indeed, the air filter of *Giacovas* is formed for a rectangular air filter housing [*Giacovas*, Fig. 3]. Consequently, claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Claims 6-9, which depend upon claim 1, are also allowable.

Claim 6 requires "low restriction filter paper." Yet, neither *Giacovas* nor *Lefkowitz, et al.* teach the use of this type of filter paper. Claim 6 is separately allowable.

Claim 7 teaches that the filtered paper is "operatively connected by welding" to the pleated filter support. Again, neither reference teaches this particular feature. Therefore, claim 7 is allowable for this independent reason.

Claim 9 requires a filter seal connecting the seal and the pleated filter support. The Examiner has not identified such a seal in either reference. Claim 9 is allowable.

For the same reason that claim 1 is allowable, claim 10 is also allowable. Claim 10 requires "a plurality of posts to defining a pleated shape in an at least a partially annular form." Again, neither *Lefkowitz, et al.* nor *Giacovas* teach this feature. Moreover, claim 10 has been amended to specify the invention in the environment of a vehicle body. This limitation further distinguishes the invention over the cited references. *Lefkowitz, et al.* relates to air filters for factories. The present invention requires a "vehicle flow body." There is no such teaching in *Lefkowitz, et al.* There is also no such feature of "a vehicle flow body" in *Giacovas* either. Accordingly, claim 10 is allowable over the cited reference.

Dependent claims 13-16 are also allowable. Moreover, these dependent claims share the same distinguishing features as the dependent claims of claim 1. For these additional reasons, these claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 17 also requires "forming the pleats into at least a partially annular form." Neither *Giacovas* nor *Lefkowitz, et al.* teach this step. Claim 17 is allowable over the cited references for this reason.

Claim 19 requires "the plurality of support members comprise a wire mesh." An annular wire mesh pleat is not taught by either reference. Therefore, claim 19 is separately allowable.

Claim 20 requires "the step of sealing the filter to the support." No such step is mentioned in either *Lefkowitz, et al.* or *Giacovas*. This claim is therefore allowable over these references.

Finally, Applicant has added claim 21 which requires "said pleated filter support at least partially forms an annular shape." Neither the filter support of *Giacovas* or *Lefkowitz, et al.* teach this particular shape. Therefore, claim 21 is allowable over the cited reference.

Applicant believes that additional fees in the amount of \$84.00 is required for one independent claim. A check in the amount of \$84.00 is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

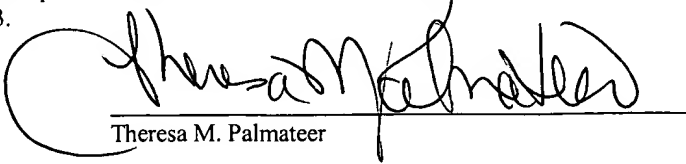
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Dated: May 14, 2003

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 14, 2003.

  
Theresa M. Palmateer